



# The Beacon, recording 75 years of UP history

Andy Matarrese

Jessie Hethcote

Editor-in-Chief, Staff Writer

Seventy-five years ago, when the school changed its name from Columbia University and decided to go with a nautical athletic theme, the school newspaper put on a contest to change its name.

Student Alan Kennedy won \$3 for his idea: "The Beacon."

"With three or four airplane beams flashing their white shafts across campus nightly, the name seems and is very appropriate," said John Hinch, a guard on the football team, referencing the old Swan Island airport built in 1930.

Editor of Portland Magazine, Brian Doyle has been reading The Beacon for 19 years.

"The biggest change I've seen is that it grew up," Doyle said. "It's a real newspaper."

Looking at old copies of the paper, it's arresting to see how much really has changed, not just with the paper, but with the school or the country or the world. Or students' taste in women.

A student poll conducted by the 1936 staff showed that Ginger Rogers "ran away from the field of 47 Hollywood actresses," representing a shift from the senior class' "emphatic rejection" of red-heads. Another pop culture reference, during an especially hip period of the paper, has Paul Simon lyrics strewn across a page.

Beyond who has the best gams, The Beacon's staff has never been afraid to weigh in on politics.

An editorial from 1936 talked about newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst calling FDR a communist. A front page headline from the 70s was more direct, encouraging readers to "Quit your bitching and vote."

Nor has the staff been afraid of grandstanding: "The campaign will be the most spectacular in American history," said an

## PORTLAND ADMITS CO-EDS

### The BEACON Fifty-Year Policy Goes by Boards

#### As Bars Are Lowered to Women

Courses Designed to Be Out of Conflict with Marylhurst College Classes Few Non-Portland Residents Expected.

In a signed statement Saturday, it was announced by Rev. Daniel H. Keeler, C.S.C., Portland president, that all colleges of Portland will be open to co-eds starting with the second semester beginning January 27.

In a statement to downtown newspapers, Father Keeler stated that the reason for the change was "The pressure of growing demands and the

obvious advantages to applicants from this section have induced the national Headquarters of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the teaching order that conducts this school, to admit women students in all our colleges and departments."

Moreover, all students have been invited to the school of music and the college of nursing. Father Keeler said the decision to make Portland an educational center after two years of careful planning and preparation.

After a conference with Sister Rosalie, Dean of Studies at Marylhurst, it was agreed that the educational setting will not suffer because of the admission of Marylhurst students, and other local centers in which Marylhurst specializes, such as home economics.

Father Keeler stated that the

new students will be expected to

attend the University of Portland.

Rev. Joseph McGroarty, C.S.C., director of graduate studies, was ap-

pointed chairman of a faculty committee for university development.

Rev. Robert J. Crowley, C.S.C., Portland president, soon re-

ceives the appointment Father Mc-

Groarty, elected as one of the un-

dergraduates school of science and chairwoman of the school committee.

Receiving Father McGroarty in the

post of one of the undergraduate

school of science will be Rev. John



## PLAY STARS DICK FAIR

editorial in the later 30s. "Upon the outcome depends the status of the United States during the next four years."

And even then, they weren't afraid of moralizing, either, admonishing that "The battle is on. The true student will watch with interest."

The isolationist 30s gave way quickly, both on staff and in the country, to the

war-ravaged 40s. Editorials that called WWII an "age-old blood feud" between imperialist capitalists switched to vows to "finish what the Japs have started." The staff shriveled to two students and an adviser.

Other times things weren't so cut and dry.

A political cartoon in 1968 had bodies strewn about a destroyed city, with a sign reading "Hue city limits," a reference to the Vietnam conflict. The caption read "A city safe for democracy." Another front page in April that year mourned Martin Luther King's assassination. Ads ran saying "Youth for George Wallace."

In one

column from that sad year, a student summed up the anxiety visible in those pages, saying, "We are alone in our desperation, like children we grope in abject darkness."

The big stories on campus could be just as impactful: the murder of student Kate Johnson in 2001. Reports on who died as a result of what war. Rapes, sexual assaults, policy battles, war prisoners, race issues or a protest in Mehling over intervisitation rules in 1971.

"There have been a couple occasions when there have been stories that are difficult and important," communication studies professor Mick Mulcrone said. He's always tried to make himself available to students and give advice to student journalists.

"Above all, the purpose of news is to speak the truth to power, and sometimes that's difficult," he said.

"This year, I think, and last year particularly, The Beacon has done a good job," Mulcrone said. "I've seen it ebb and flow."

In 1983, The Beacon added the position of "city editor" to the editorial board. An attempt to move away from parochial focus, the "city editor" would report on off-campus, Portland news. But most of the time, the headlines, pictures and stories published stayed focused on campus, and were all familiar sights on familiar gripe.

A 1965 column from Patrice Wohlfeil complained about advising, informing freshmen not to expect to be led by the hand to "the Land of Sympathy and Love Within the College Family." A story headlined "Incompetence" in 1981 bashed the housing process. An editorial in '68 almost begged with the administration to make theology classes into electives.

Other stories were more reminiscent of the Ginger Rogers survey, like when the news came in 1950 that the school would admit women. The headline might have been the biggest in the history of the paper. The story that ran when the school turned Shipstad into its first co-ed hall,

the story ran over the whole front page with a picture of three grinning males.

According to Doyle, The Beacon sometimes in the past became more of a clique than a newspaper staff. Faculty and staff complained about the "sophomoric" quality, and Doyle often reminded them that some Beacon staffers are literally sophomores.

That didn't just mean misspellings.

Quoted in a 1985 article in Portland Magazine, former history professor James Covert remembered in the 1960s when an anonymously-written Beacon column regularly "attacked the board of regents, tried to crucify the administration, and claimed to have secret evidence."

From the 50s to the 70s, The Beacon, an underground newspaper, made occasional appearances on campus. Usually, this took place when students felt the paper was not fulfilling its duties and instead becoming a public relations tool for the student government. Now, The Beacon sometimes appears in The Beacon on April Fool's Day as a prank.

In 1940, an editorial effectively called the Irish a bunch of drunks (an apology ran in the next issue).

Doyle believes that The Beacon does its homework now, more so than before.

"The paper has a real mature, healthy respect and disrespect for authority," Doyle said. "It's also poking deeper at easy stories, making it a deeper expedition than it used to be."

The first glimpse of The Beacon's future was on Nov. 7, 2005, when The Beacon published its first story on the Internet. This year, the paper revamped its presence on Facebook, started a staff blog and the sports department started experimenting with Twitter.

But it's the paper in the racks every Thursday that will continue to be the core of what The Beacon does.

"It seems to me that there's a consistent quality to the paper that has become normal," Doyle said. "It's not a surprise. That's neat."



The front page of the first Beacon newspaper.

**April 12, 1935** — The Beacon is born. It succeeds The Columbiad as the official student publication for the newly renamed University of Portland. "The Beacon will guide the Pilots through many successful years," Paul McBride said in the first inaugural issue. The front page of the first issue of The Beacon can be seen above.

**1936** — The Beacon flirts with printing six-page issues, and in January, 18 members officially work for The Beacon.

1935

# Beacon folk reminisce about their time on staff

JOE T. KOVACH  
1953

Friday, February 15, 1952

## KOVACH KORNER

By JOE KOVACH

Newsprint has been in my blood since my Roosevelt High School newspaper days, continuing for four memorable years at the University of Portland (The Beacon and the Log), eight more years as a high school journalism adviser in Oregon and 31 years as the Communications Director at the University of California, Santa Barbara. I have been retired since Nov. 1993.

As a freshman in 1949 I enjoyed writing sports for The Beacon. I have fond memories of covering the Pilots' athletics teams. In basketball games, I recall covering a game at the old Ice Arena in northwest Portland when the Pilots beat St. Mary's 66-55. Again I was assigned to cover the game against Univ. of Oregon in December 1950 when the Pilots edged the Ducks 68-67, for their first win in history over the Eugene hoopsters. Other sites found the Pilots playing at the Pacific International Pavilion (old stockyards) and Howard Hall. My classmate Neil Moore was a busy sportswriter. Moore later became a parish priest and served in parishes in the city.

Two startling, historic events in my years on the campus were the dropping of the Football Program in February 1950 and the University admitting women, effective January 1951.

My two special faculty media advisers were Russ Hays and Rev. C. L. Boehm, C.S.C. In Feb 1951, when I was appointed Sports Editor as a sophomore, I also enjoyed writing bits 'n pieces in a sports column, 'Kovach Korner.' My brother John and our neighbor Joe Cherry became sportswriters also.

As a senior, I was appointed Editor of The Beacon by Father Boehm and was in-



formed that I would receive a full scholarship, which thrilled my father and mother. At the same time, I served as Sports Editor of the 1953 Log.

I have been blessed to be at the right place at the right time wherever my job took me. Seeing publications prepared by hot-type, to cold-type and to present day computerization have been eye-openers. As a high school teacher, my journalism students garnered prize-winning All-American newspaper honors. At UCSB, the yearbook and daily newspaper received national and state awards consistently. The National Council of College Publications Advisers honored me as the Distinguished Yearbook Adviser for 1969, and in 1982 the Distinguished Newspaper Adviser.

PS: In 1996 in retirement I edited a 324-page Centennial Yearbook for our parish, St. Raphael Catholic Church, most of it in full-color. I was Editor of The Spirit newspaper for the parish for 31-years also....so you can see MY BLOOD OVERFLOWS for printed publications.

*Joe T. Kovach, was editor-in-chief from 1952-'53. He received his B.A. in 1953 and his*

**"Back in 1964-65, I was the Sports Editor for the Beacon. I was offered this position by Bob Devlin, the Beacon Editor. I accepted the offer and became the "Sports Guy." I did tell Bob that there was one condition...I needed someone to type my stories (back then everyone wasn't a skilled typist). Bob assured me that his younger sister who was a sophomore @ UP, would type my stories. It was upon meeting his sister Elaine that led to Elaine and I getting married. She still does most of our family computer typing."**

Donald Miller

ANNA LAGESON-KERNS  
1983

I was the features editor for the Beacon in the 1982-83 academic year. My fondest recollections are of the many late night paste-up parties we had getting the paper ready for print. Yes, before the days of PCs we had to literally cut and paste the newspaper together while we feasted on pizza and Pepsi.

I am most proud of an article I worked on with Mike Raffanti, our editor in chief. We had ambitions to report stories that were relevant not only to campus but to the larger community as well. In 1983, survivalists were getting a lot of attention in the media and so we decided to cover the story. We managed to find an alumnus who knew a survi-



alist. We traveled south and interviewed the survivalist on his property outside of Grants Pass. He described his beliefs, his distrust of society, his stockpile of provisions, and the weapons he was prepared to use to protect his supplies. We wrote the article for the Beacon and submitted it to a college journalism competition sponsored by Women in Communications and were awarded first place. It was the first time that I felt my work was comparable to articles published in the professional media.

*Anna Lageson-Kerns works in UP Marketing and Communications.*



JIM THIELEN  
1948

Hi! Jim Thielen here. Beacon staff member from '46 through '48 including editor in the fall of '47. Esteemed colleagues, now deceased, included Grant Skelley '47, later instructor of Library Management at the University of Washington, and Jim Burns, '47, who became a distinguished Federal Judge. I was proud of our little paper, in spite of its half-page ads for Chesterfield cigarettes featuring such stars as Betty



Grable, Rita Hayworth and even Ronald Reagan. We received honor ratings from Associated Collegiate Press. I loved to write editorials and one, entitled "Culture vs Agriculture," which appeared in the December 10, '48 issue, was rated best editorial to appear in a national Catholic college paper that year.

Today, I live in Seal Rock, Oregon and write poetry. A granddaughter, Clairissa Thielen, is a senior in the nursing school and, according to Ancestry Inc., I am distantly related to Andy Sherwood.

MAIA NOLAN  
2000

I recently came across the 1999-2000 Beacon quote book in a box of old mementoes. Actually, "book" is a bit generous; it's really a pamphlet, stapled together and filled with the Post-It notes on which we'd recorded a year's worth of memorable newsroom quotes.

We had good days and bad days at The Beacon, long nights and big arguments, blowups and scandals and breakdowns, and when I was editor there was more than one occasion on which

much as the feeling those quotes recall.

The Beacon made me a better reporter and a better editor. But more importantly, it taught me what it means to work toward a common goal with people you like and respect.



I closed the door to my office and cried. There were also trips to The B luff to throw oranges into the river, and the mornings I walked in to the newsroom to find Andy Sherwood asleep on the couch after working all night, and the time I brought the rest of the staff to hysterical laughter by calling local pet stores to inquire about purchasing a monkey to write our weekly ASUP Senate report.

As a staff, we shared our frustrations and our successes, and we knew we had one another to turn to when things got challenging. I may not remember exactly why giraffes are supposed to love whisky. But I do remember that the laughter that statement provoked gave us the energy we needed to keep working a little bit longer.

*Maia Nolan is managing editor of Alaska-Dispatch.com*

SCOTT THOMPSON  
1992

Although I had many wonderful, and frustrating, experiences working at The Beacon, the one that sticks out in my memory happened the day of my graduation from UP. The staff and I had worked through a particularly contentious year with the administration and our editorials were openly critical of many of then-President Fr. David Tyson's policies and plans for the University. What made it all worthwhile was at the moment Fr. Tyson handed me my diploma, and shook my hand, he had the grace to tell me he felt I had done an ex-



cellent job leading The Beacon that year. Since I thought he might publicly strangle me on stage, this was quite a relief, and further proof that the University of Portland was the right choice for me.

My name is Scott Thompson. I graduated with a BS in Journalism in 1992. I worked for the Beacon for the three years I was at UP; first as copy editor, then managing editor, and my senior year as editor-in-chief. Since then, I've been working in a small print shop in The Dalles, coming up on my 19th year.



1948 - The Beacon wins its third First Class Award by the Associated Press and National Scholastic Association. Also, new mast head appears.

A Betty Grable cigarette ad appears in The Beacon.

1940

1945

1950



A Beacon staff takes a group photo after a long day in the office.



A student lays out The Beacon the old-fashioned way: with glue, tape and hot wax.



A Beacon staff gathers together to take a staff photo.



Student, who we think is Pete Lesage, reads Beacon articles while at work.

1957 – The Beacon expands to an 8-page print.

## DAN CHRISTOPHERSON 1987

When I pilot back in my memory to those good ol' days as a U of P student, I see myself in The Beacon office. That is, after all, where I spent most of my time.

Class? I still have a few minutes to edit this story. Hanging out with friends? Maybe on the weekend. Studying? I'll get to it by midnight. We have a newspaper to get out on Thursday!

A quarter century later, I can still remember the hard work and the pride we put into every Beacon issue. We took our job seriously, but had a lot of fun doing it.

I remember my first assignment as a freshman, covering women's soccer—before Merlo Field, before the Pilots dynasty. I showed up at the old Beacon office at the center of campus—where Franz Hall now sits. I hacked out the story on an ancient typewriter and prayed my

editor would approve.

A year later, we had word processing, but we still had to manually paste-up the paper using exacto knives and wax sheets of copy and photos.

I had to laugh when they got their first computer layout program the year after I left.

But I wouldn't have traded my experience for anything. We had a blast and we bonded as a team on those late nights editing, pasting-up and meeting our deadlines.

During my year as editor-in-chief, I presided over the big move of The Beacon office to St. Mary's, which had previously been the campus chapel.

One of our big stories of the day was the establishment of co-ed dormitories. We covered the issues and received some national recognition along the way.

For me, The Beacon laid a foundation in pursuing excellence as a journalist. We had the freedom to learn our craft and to make mistakes. We had the responsibility to inform and to be a voice for the campus. And did I mention how much fun we had?

That foundation helped me build a lasting career in television news, and I am proud to have played a part in The Beacon's continuing legacy.

Dan Christopherson is a sports reporter/Anchor at KOIN TV.



## PAUL PIMENTAL 1984

My senior year at UP I returned to radio (my first love) and KDUP. After interning in the spring of '85 at KXL AM 750 in Portland, I ended up staying there for 20 years, doing news, editing, production, and pro-



gramming. For the past 5 years, I've produced the morning show on KPOJ AM 620 in Portland.

I remember the camaraderie and hard work from my years at The Beacon. We worked hard every week to get that issue out. Late nights, early mornings, writes and rewrites, a lot of laughter, some tears, maybe a little bit of cursing, pizza runs, and satisfaction once it was delivered to the printer.

And then we'd start all over again. The Beacon taught me how important teamwork is; how to successfully work with a large group of personalities, all striving to do their best. Congrats on 75 years!



## CAITLIN MORAN 2008

After two weeks spent scouring my memory for newsroom pranks and staff shenanigans, I'm afraid this write-up is going to take a more serious tone.

Working for The Beacon was the single most rewarding experience of my college career. Not because it was a prerequisite for what I do now and not because it allowed me to see my name in print every week.

Rather, the three years I spent in that wood-paneled office stand apart because they taught me to love reporting and to love journalism.

I applied for the paper because I wanted to pursue writing as a career and I needed practice and clips. But I soon discovered the whole reporting thing was kind of fun. Especially because we students on staff had a special sort of privilege: We got to stick it to the man.

The Beacon (God rest its soul) was the highlight of the year. In those precious four pages we indiscriminately poked fun at every UP official unlucky enough to have a Latin title following his name.

OK, wait. Now I remember.



Sophomore year, we were putting together pages for The Beacon (the yearly April Fool's issue that satirized anything and everything UP), and I had the fortune of being able to write a "letter to the editor" from a prominent campus official.

The time came for us to disguise the person's name, and I decided to put a slew of random letters as a parody of the unfortunately long title and, specifically, the C.S.C. that accompanies the name of every member of the Congregation of the Holy Cross.

The editor in chief at the time was all for it. But she had a special idea for five of those letters.

Two days later, at our weekly critique meeting, our adviser called her out on it. I got a call, the adviser said. People over in Waldschmidt have noticed some letters after (campus official)'s name. What does GLBTQ stand for?

"I have no idea what you're talking about," she responded with a straight face. And we got away with it.

I definitely looked up to editors like her. But as time went along, I, too, began to take part in determining what stories we should do, and then senior year, as editor in chief, I had the awesome responsibility of shaping the entire paper's direction.

I quickly realized that as fun as the reporting stuff is, it is also what makes a newspaper a newspaper. In many ways, it's all that matters.

We tackled some incredible projects while I was on staff. The need for a Gay-Straight Partnership. Sexual assault policies. The relationship between the university and its surrounding neighborhood.

Things like poking fun at campus officials, doing "Beacon shots" and having crazy Wednesday nights in St. Mary's certainly made The Beacon a fun place to be. But everything else in between made it worthwhile.

Caitlin Moran works at a small newspaper in Maryland.

**"The Pilots, The Blue  
The Beacon, The Ba  
still around? Dr. Cov  
the great Plays & P  
These are only a few  
things I remember.  
Finley Master Head  
Class of 66. Congrat  
years!"**



1963 – The Beacon publishes its first crossword puzzle "Crossword Contest for Beacon Burgers." The first 15 winners were awarded a burger, milkshake and fries from McDonald's.

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## JOE FREEMAN 1999

It's hard to believe it's been over 10 years since I roamed The Bluff as a student, but as I look back on those eventful years, a simple question puzzles me like no other: What the heck was I thinking?



My friends were playing video games. Or crashing Sauvie Island. Or watching Family Guy in our grungy off campus house. Me? I was holed up in the antiquated St. Mary's Student Center, hours upon hours, wasting away in front of a Mac or

debating the merits of some ridiculous topic with a fellow Beaconite.

For three of my four years at the University of Portland, I spent far too much time in that old building, honing my writing ability and debating story ideas. Even back then I refused to pull punches, and along the way I upset my share of prominent university employees — from department heads to deans to basketball coaches.

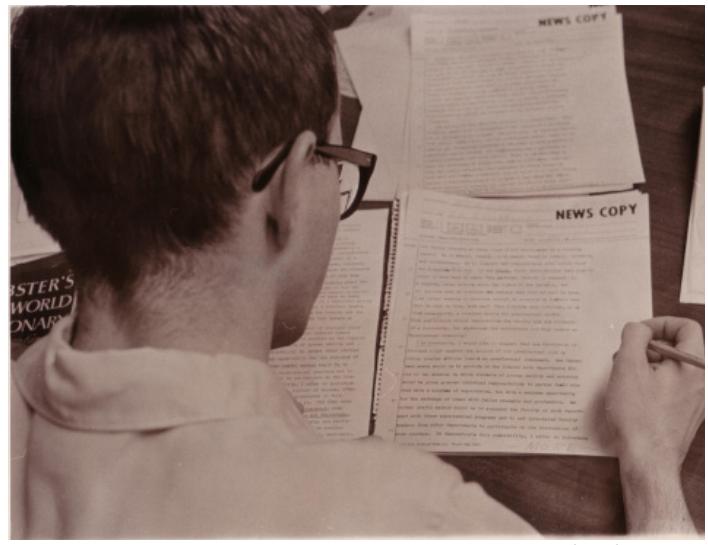
I wrote too many feature stories to count and occasionally dug too deep looking for borderline news and missed. But I also exposed wrongdoings, enlightened students to the unusual and did my best to

inform and entertain my peers through words and stories.

This was a rewarding time in my journalism career. Because while I spent countless hours in classrooms at UP, the practical experience, and thus, the biggest lessons I learned, came during the moments I spent in The Beacon offices at St. Mary's, helping to publish a paper every week.

What was I thinking? Who knows? But after all these years, I'd do the same thing all over again.

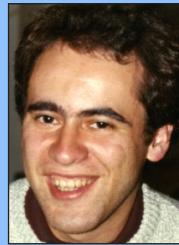
*Joe Freeman is a Sports Reporter for The Oregonian.*



A Beacon editor edits news copy.

## MICHAEL RAFFANTI 1982

When I think back to my senior year on the Bluff, I can't even recall exactly which courses I took (sorry, Dr. Faller et al.). Although no doubt my lack of memory about coursework in philosophy and history is attributable to advanced age, that's only part of the explanation, as I do have vivid recollections of my work as editor-in-chief of the '82-'83 *Beacon*.



This all-consuming responsibility had

many highs (teamwork, all night work parties, and interesting interviews) and a few lows (the constant pressure of deadlines, falling behind in schoolwork, and unconstructive criticism). All told, it remains one of the most significant learning experiences of my life.

I learned how to write more succinctly, which certainly helped me in law school. Similarly, the emphasis on meeting deadlines, whatever it took, served me well in legal practice.

Finally, I gained tremendous on-the-job leadership training, learning firsthand about developing a shared vision,

facilitating a collaborative work environment and surrounding myself with talented individuals.

These are concepts that I teach today in my job as a professor of educational leadership and are cornerstones of my own leadership practices. In short, my experiences on *The Beacon* were a highlight of my years at the University of Portland.



## JAKE WIEDERRICH 2006

I may be long gone from UP, but I could never venture too far from The Beacon. As I sit in front of my computer, they are right in front of me: three years worth of Beacon printings, neatly bound, resting on my highest shelf. When nostalgia sets in, or when old friends stop by, the newspapers get passed around and the memories come flooding back.

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Tim Finley  
Class of 1966

With all due respect to the many fine professors and instructors I had at UP, the best "get-me-ready-for-the-real-world" experience I could have ever asked for came from the zillion hours I spent working on The Beacon. I had two great mentors during the process.

First was Sally Click, whom I grossly underappreciated at the time. She understood the nuances between the students and the faculty better than anyone, and was always the absolute best source.

Then there was Rick Seifert, who was also my journalism adviser. I still count

"news" and writing for the campus newspaper was a natural fit. I loved being on the inside of it all—knowing a little about virtually everything happening on The Bluff.

The biggest story we all covered during my time on The Beacon was the arrest of Deniz Aydiner, who was convicted for murdering UP student Kate Johnson in 2001.

The murder, the search for Johnson's killer and the mystery surrounding the case intrigued all of us writing for The Beacon.

At the time, it was never easy to get a straight answer from university administrators, so a small group of us did the legwork on our own: search-

ing out court documents, public records and establishing off-campus contacts.

Was the work we did Pulitzer-worthy? Not likely, but our reporting taught us far more than anything we could have pulled out of a textbook.

Four years after graduating, I still look back on my days with The Beacon and can't help but smile. The long hours I spent in that old and musty newsroom (I hear it's remodeled?) were the best of my college days. In fact, a small group of us who worked together still gather for beers or coffee as often as possible to relive those memories and trade the latest gossip.

The next time we all get together, we'll definitely be wishing The Beacon a very happy anniversary. Here's to another 75 great years!



*Jake Wiederrich is a news producer at KIRO TV in Seattle.*

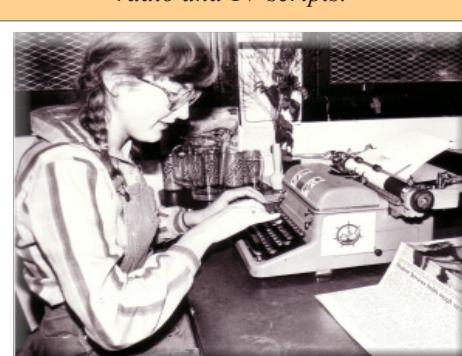
## PETE HEERY 1994

Rick as the mentor and measuring stick of my professional life since graduation, and much of the advice he gave still sticks today ("Live in harmony, Pete.") And while I only remember a few specific Beacon stories we covered (and a few columns that still make me cringe thinking about), the best memories will always come from the amazing staff.

While it may sound like a cliché, I learned something from everyone. My two best memories: first, the infamous "broccoli" incident at the Oregon coast Beacon staff retreat (those who were there will understand what I'm talking

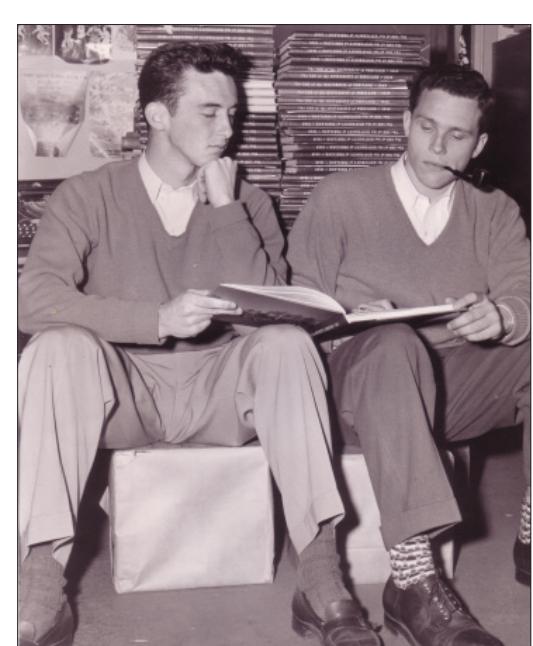
about); and doing wheelies in the snow with a frightened future Beacon editor Nancy Nilles riding shotgun. Ah, the memories. Happy 75th, Beacon!

*Since graduation, Pete Heery has worked for a couple of newspapers in central Oregon and a Portland TV listings magazine. Turned to the "dark side" and went into advertising with Meier & Frank. Moved to San Francisco and worked for Macy's in advertising for nine years doing everything from putting together catalogs to writing Macy's advertising radio and TV scripts.*



A student types up an article to appear in The Beacon.

**1969** — Bylines appear atop every article. The Beacon begins to print more feature stories in addition to news and sports. Also, pictures appear more frequently in articles.



Two Beacon reporters read a book together.

**1974** — The Beacon's publishing date is changed to Wednesdays instead of Fridays.

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## PETE LESAGE 1980

Halfway through my sophomore year in 1977, I was seized by visions of grandeur. I wanted to be The Beacon editor-in-chief, and I wanted to put my stamp on the paper. It would be a big one: Raising the paper from 12 to 16 pages. Having a correspondent in each department, each dormitory, each activity to provide a steady stream of news to fill those pages. Driving the campus agenda with hard-hitting enterprise news stories and editorials. Winning Associated Collegiate Press awards. It would all be mine.

Well, I got it. The selection committee was dazzled by all this and chose me as editor for the 1978 calendar year. The paper bannered the story of my selection, along with a photo of me sitting smugly with my feet up on the editor's desk, the hole in the bottom of my ratty sneaker lending just the right air of insouciance.

I quickly assembled a staff, and on cue we produced our first edition in early January – 16 pages, as promised. It had lots of photos in it. And some wire copy. And more wire copy. Seems it wasn't that easy to find people willing and able to dig up news and provide it to us for the princely sum we were offering: Compliments and an occasional free pizza. It also seems that reporting and writing hard-hitting news stories and editorials while taking a full load of classes and working 30 hours a week downtown was just a tad more



difficult than I'd imagined. Oh, and I had to spend some time each week performing a task I'd never dreamed would fall to the all-powerful editor-in-chief: Driving around campus in my beater car, dropping bundles of papers in the racks.

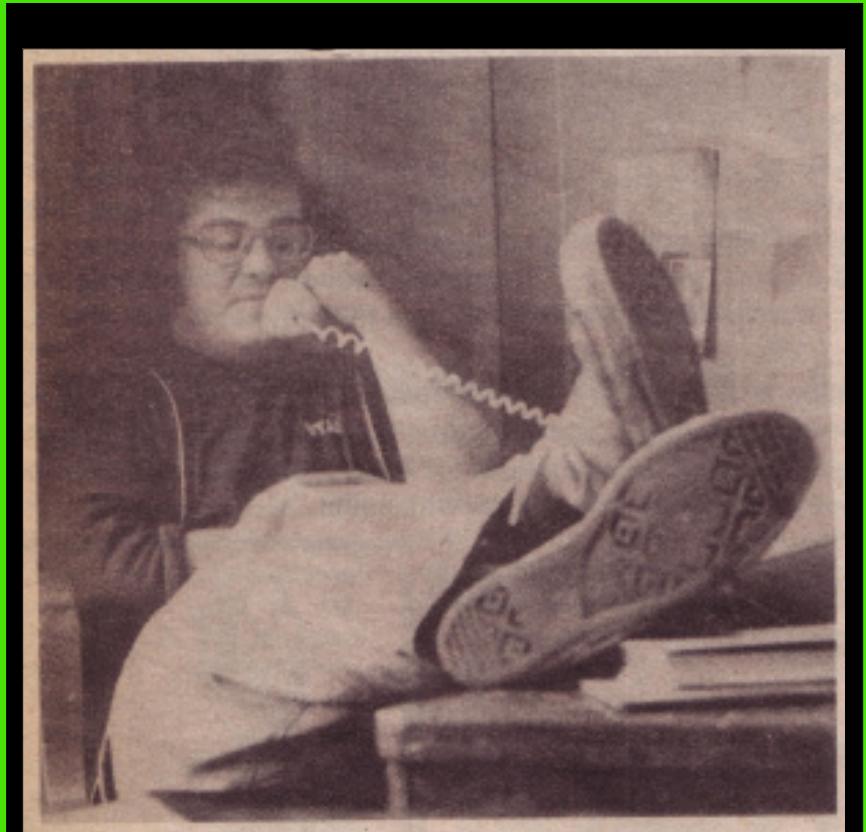
We did win a few collegiate press awards, mostly for not being a really bad newspaper. We did have a lot of fun, mostly when we didn't know what we were doing. And we did print 16 pages every week, mostly filled with photos so grainy it would have done no one any good to clip them out as keepsakes.

My triumphant moment, though, came early that fall. I'd met a girl who'd spent the past year studying in Salzburg. I figured she didn't know what a big man on campus I was, so on one of our first dates I made sure to tell her I was The Beacon's editor (I think even before I told her what my last name was). I'd forgotten, though, that each week's issue of The Beacon was mailed to Salzburg, so my lofty status was information she already had.

"Oh," she said. "You're the guy with the hole in the bottom of his shoe."

I thought I was sunk. But I guess the hole impressed her more than my powerful position on campus did, because in August this year we will celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

*Pete Lesage in the Senior Editor for page one and Sunday at The Oregonian. He is responsible for the front page seven days a week and for overseeing the Sunday paper's content.*



**NEW BEACON EDITOR** Pete Lesage is shown at his desk where he currently runs the sports department for the newspaper. Lesage will take over new position beginning Spring semester.

photo by Curt Koop

## BONNIE SEAL 1980

As I remember it, the winter of 1980 was a mean one. Snow and ice paralyzed the streets of Portland, crippling the January UP registration, and starving homes and businesses of power. The Beacon offices in the basement of Christie Hall were no exception.

As a graduate student in Communications, I was editor-in-chief of The Beacon that semester. I can remember trudging down Willamette Blvd. in the snow to get to work from my home about a mile and a quarter from campus.

There were several winter storms that year, but when the snow and ice finally melted, and much of Portland was back on its feet, The Beacon continued to have its own temperature problems. The building's heating system did not properly heat The Beacon's offices, which administrators said had never been intended for offices. Beacon staff members were often so cold we worked wearing hats, coats, scarves, and gloves, fumbling to paste-up copy, roll film and type stories. The gloves were especially tedious since film development and precise placement of text required acute finger coordination.

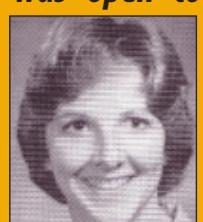
We complained first to campus maintenance, and finally after weeks of no results, began to talk to the administration, finally posting an editorial, explaining how we kept fuses on top of a fuse box, and replaced them several times a day, and used space heaters which created problems of their own. Sometimes the lights would go out when we were working on deadline, and we were no longer able to use the electric waver to

adhere copy to pages, as we worked by candlelight and flashlights. After a while, we tried keeping the heaters off, in the hopes of keeping the lights on.

Finally, spring came, and our windowed offices basked in sunshine. But power on this campus was still an issue. In April, a broken power line stripped the entire campus of electricity for three days. The outage affected a water pump, and so the campus was also without water part of the time. To enable repairs, other planned power outages followed.

The following year, the university moved The Beacon offices to a different location. I often wonder if that had anything to do with the heating problems in the basement of Christie Hall.

**"I loved my time as the first female Sports Editor for The Beacon, in 1981. Thanks to Susan Skrivalis editor, she was open to women reporters in areas we hadn't ventured before and provided me a lot of support and latitude. I began a new weekly column called Sportsperson of the Week that highlighted various Pilot athletes throughout the year."**



Eileen Cebula Smith  
First female Beacon sports reporter  
Director of Marketing American Institutes for Research

## JAY LOWERY 1966

Often over the years, especially around Reunion time, I have thought about what were the most influential classes and activities.

Surprisingly, very few classes made that grade. Of the activities I was involved in (debate, Pi Kappa Delta, drama, Beacon, state and local politics, Judicial Board), which were most influ-

ential? Following various career paths, (teaching, Special Forces medic, laboratory management, health center director, headhunting, technical writing, accounting and management) is there a common thread to determine the most useful UP activity?

Clearly the activity that sharpened skills of writing, meeting deadlines,

working with others, research and communication: the Beacon. The influences of the people I met on the Beacon were beneficial. Each preceding editor (Joe Ballard, Bob Devlin, Jim Collins, Dan Yost) had their own management and leadership style from which to observe and learn..

As I continue in graduate school to

earn a doctorate in history to teach in college, my final career, all the, research, writing, and deadlines, further confirm why I would recommend the Beacon to anyone.

Most humorous anecdote: as a new freshman covering my first Pilot basketball game, I referred to quarters for time periods!



Students cut and paste the paper together in order to send it to print.

**1980** – The Beacon expands to 12 pages, with sections of news, entertainment, opinions and sports.

**1984** – The Beacon appears in color. Each week, the name plates appeared in a different color and boxes of color were used to draw attention to certain articles.



A Beacon staffer writes an article on an old time typewriter.

**1980**

**1985**

**1990**

LARRY MUELLER  
1973

When I saw the "Calling All BEACON Staffers" request in Portland magazine, memories from 35 years ago came flooding back:

Memories of Pilot basketball—Jack Avina, Gary Strachan, Kenny Hettrich, Eli Delgadillo, Doug Lauricella, George "The Jet" Weider, Quentin "Stretch" Braxton, Floyd "Tiny" Banks, Ricardo Parks. Maybe the Pilots weren't very good in those days, but I'll never forget the night that we packed Howard Hall for a hotly-contested game with the then-nationally ranked University of Hawaii. Kind of divided the loyalty of all the Hawaii natives on campus...

Memories of Wednesday "Paste Up" night in the basement of Holy Cross (now Kenna) Hall—how's that for an archaic process?

Memories of an editorial I wrote when ASUP was (in my mind) in danger of being taken over by the "bad boy" frat boys from Upsilon. The editorial was entitled "Stuffed Turkey," and cautioned students against electing a bloc from a single



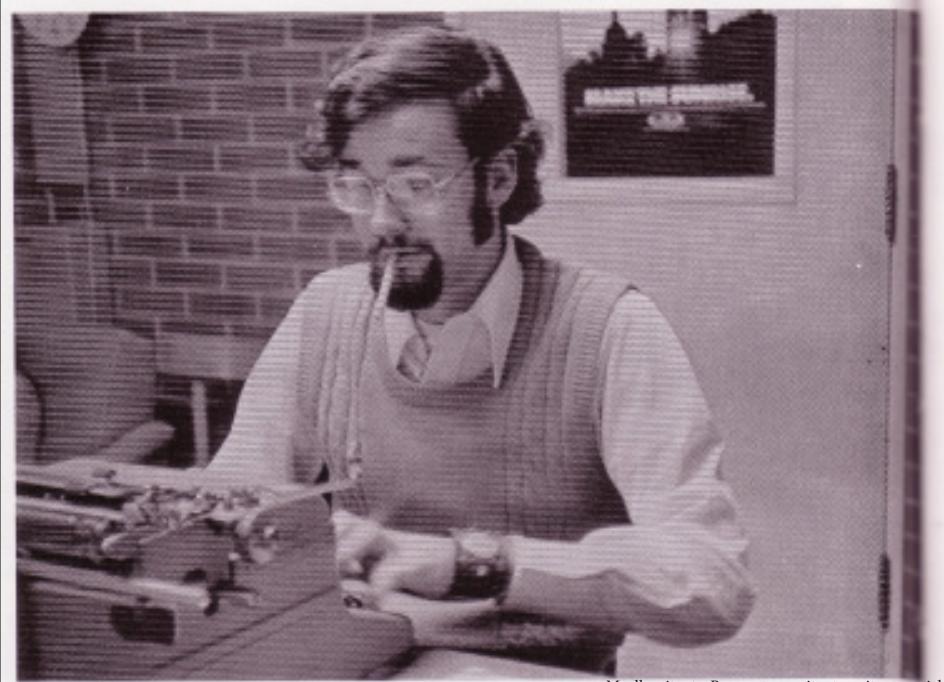
frat. That editorial became the fodder for a rather contentious "discussion" with Craig "Satch" Sanders and I, and later he and I became best friends. In fact, my move to the Chicago area was triggered by the opportunity to work with Satch. Satch passed away 10 years ago, but rich memories remain of him and I and his wife, the former Janet Palmesano.

Memories of former BEACON staffers like Tim Nugent, Pat Cashman, sports writers John and Bob Lowry, Cynthia Lacro, Kevin Nishihara, and the (still) anonymous columnist Elmer Lipschitz (although he was much more Italian than German).

Ah, the memories—stirring the pot with interviews with the prickly Father Heppen, the always gracious Father Waldschmidt and the ever patient Art Schulte.

Memories of the late Barbara Miller, our BEACON advisor, who (I'm sure) we challenged regularly.

To this day, I use the writing and editing skills I learned at THE BEACON and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to have learned those skills, to make lifelong friends, and to have had the voice to reach out to the campus and beyond. Long live student publications!



Mueller sits at a Beacon typewriter to write an article

Larry was editor-in-chief of THE BEACON in 1973, and had previously served as copy editor and managing edi-

tor. He has worked for Caterpillar, Inc. since 1995

CASEY WHITE  
2003

Most of my college memories take place in *The Beacon* offices, which makes sense considering I spent four years on the staff.

Several events really shaped and challenged me as a writer, editor and student at UP. Censorship was a thorn in *The Beacon's* side during my time at UP. From the cancellation of "The Vagina Monologues," to the University prohibiting editorials from discussing abortion, pre-marital sex and alcohol, *Beacon* staff constantly pushed the University's limits in the name of the First Amendment. The demise of the journalism program in 2001—making me one of the last of the UP journalism majors—also sent *Beaconites* into a firestorm, resulting in a protest on the steps of Franz Hall and the late Dr. Bob Fulford to roll over in his grave.

The first issue of *The Beacon* my inaugural year as editor began with one of UP's great tragedies—the brutal killing of senior Kate Johnson in Mehling Hall. Her death was a challenge for our staff to write about, and we all learned to choke back our emotions as we strived to honor Kate's memory while digging to the



heart of the murder and scrutinizing UP security.

Just weeks after writing about Kate's death, we took on the challenge of terrorism and patriotism with the events of Sept. 11, 2001. The ensuing war in Iraq brought forth heated and insightful discussions on the editorial pages.

Though we faced many tough issues, *Beaconites* sure had a good time. We always had a blast at the college newspaper conferences, we won the ONPA General Excellence award in 2001, covered the women's soccer team's first national championship (2002), and had some colorful ASUP elections.

Thanks, Maia, Sara, Nate, Clinton, Tim, Isaac, Michelle, Adam, Dr. Mulcrone, Dr. Fulford, Brian Doyle, and all the others who made my time at *The Beacon* so memorable!

Casey White is Public Information Officer for the Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District in Pendleton, Or.



The Beacon used to print old cigarette ads back in the forties and fifties.

BEKKI WITT  
1996

Of all my memories of life on the bluff, my times at The Beacon are among my favorites.

I made lifelong friends there, working side by side into the wee hours of the mornings. Some of the best memories include: the heating system in the Beacon offices in St. Mary's: it was either igloo or nursing home and not much in between!

The quote wall we established back by the computers. Quotes that we said, over-

heard, gleaned while interviewing people, etc. Usually, these were highly inappropriate, and, when taken out of context, filled the office with uproarious laughter. We even created a theme song for our long nights working on the paper: Stuck in the Beacon With You.

Don't tell anybody, but I slept on the couch in the Beacon office one night as I simultaneously worked on the final few issues of the paper and my senior honors thesis. Sigh.

Beyond the humor and strong friendships, I certainly learned a lot working at the Beacon: meeting deadlines, obtaining and maintaining journalistic integrity, AP Style, how to write a fantastic headline, editing, editing, editing.

At the end of the day, I think me and my team put out a solid paper. It felt good to work that hard for something, to invest that much each week in something your fellow students read and that you knew was teaching you so much more than just writing and reporting.

The Beacon was a way of life, and a crucial part of leading to my current career in public relations. I'm proud to have been stuck in the Beacon with my fellow reporters and editors and lived to tell some tales as well as see the paper reach this great milestone.

Happy 75th Anniversary, Beacon!

TONY GALATI  
1979

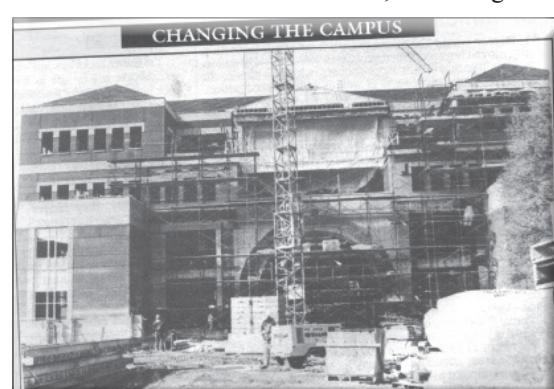
I was hired as editor in the middle of my junior year at U of P, and the job came after service to the paper as a reporter and then Managing Editor. In those days, when tuition was substantially less than it is today (I think tuition for my Junior year was less than \$3,000) service on The Beacon really paid off, and most of the editorial staff was able to reduce tuition bills by 50 to 100 percent. But, that was only a secondary point, as working for The Beacon was truly a pleasure.

The paper we produced in those days was not so different from today's product—after all, there's only so much you can do with a student newspaper and what amounts to mainly volunteer labor—but the work was good and folks were genuinely interested in reading it. The national collegiate newspaper reviewing association seemed to think we did fine, too, and our ratings were consistently high and with several marks of distinction.

While our staff had its editorial dif-

ferences and squabbles like any newspaper, we were proud of the fact that the newspaper always got out on time (once a week, Wednesdays), and we always had excess copy. Friendships were made and lasted—I'm still close to my predecessor, Pete Lesage, and to my former News Editor, Dan Malone, and I periodically see some of the others from time to time, and that's always a thrill.

Much as I loved working for The Beacon, I didn't go into the newspaper busi-



Franz Hall while under construction. The picture appeared in a March 23, 1995 issue.

ness, deciding instead to go into international shipping where I made my career for 27 years after graduation in 1979 (BA, Philosophy). But, I ended up returning to a form of media and am now serving as Executive Director of Catholic Radio, KBVM, 88.3 FM, here on the U of P campus. And, yes, I'm still reading The Beacon. Oh! And, I loved this year's Beacon as much as I enjoyed producing it in 1978.

1994 – The Beacon covers the construction of Franz Hall, calling it "the building that will take the University of Portland into the 21st century."

1995

2004 – The Beacon expands to 16 pages per issue. The pages include sections for news, entertainment, opinions, and sports.

2000

TERI VAN HOUSE CETTINA  
1986

When I reminisce about my time at U of P, I think mostly about hanging out in The Beacon offices. Those of us who were on staff over the years practically lived in those rooms. (During my tenure, our offices were in a creaky, temporary building eventually replaced by Franz Hall). We talked endlessly about articles we were writing, ordered late-night pizzas, argued about the value of print versus broadcast journalism, did homework and made lasting



friendships—all while working on Beacon layouts.

The Beacon was essentially our fraternity, our little world within a larger campus. We were earning tuition money and learning important professional skills, to be sure. But for me, the camaraderie of other Beacon student journalists was key. We wrestled with interview challenges, boring leads and exasperated typesetters (this was before computers) as a team. That's the experience, more than anything else, that made me the journalist I am today.

Today, I'm a freelance writer for national magazines like Parents, Real Sim-

ple and Reader's Digest. And I again have a valued group of colleagues/friends who keep me going. This "virtual" team of freelance journalists (scattered throughout the country) meets online and emails daily.

At the same time, my Beacon friends are still with me, influencing the way I see the world. I turn on the radio every morning to hear Brad Newgard '86 on KEX—he was Beacon news editor while I was there. On KOIN-TV, I watch my good friend and editor-successor Dan Christopherson '87 handle sports, and on KGW-TV, I see Brenda Braxton '85 (former features editor) sitting at the anchor

desk. While researching a topic about The Olympics, I learned that Bob Fasulo '86 (primo Beacon sports writer) is a top PR person for that organization.

Clearly, we all got some solid, real-life experience from The Beacon. In between gobbling all those Domino's pizzas and taking turns typing article on our ONE office computer, that is. Who could ask for more?

MEGAN WILBER  
2004

Despite majoring in journalism during my time at UP, I didn't officially join The Beacon until the end of my sophomore year. I was initially hired on as a news reporter and eventually graduated to assistant news editor.



It sounds cliché, but I truly found my niche at The Beacon. Not only was I in my element, writing and learning how to become a reporter, but I was also blessed to experience some of the most amazing and newsworthy events as a Beacon staffer.

One such newsworthy event occurred in 2001 when another UP student, Kate Johnson, was killed on campus. Her murderer went unknown until my senior year when Deniz Aydiner, also a former UP student, was arrested in Johnson's murder. I covered the arrest and subsequent investigation of Aydiner and quickly be-

came engrossed in the case. From my experience with investigative reporting and the judicial process, I think I learned more first hand as a Beacon reporter than I did during some of the actual journalism classes I took at UP.

While working at The Beacon, I also became friends with some of the most amazing people in the world. Six years after graduating, I still grab coffee or drinks—or critique the contestants on "American Idol"—with Amanda Reinders (2005), Joe Kuffner (2005), David Balthazar (2005) and Jake Wiederrick (2006). We often reminisce about the "good ol' days": the stories, the people, the scandals, the late nights spent putting the paper to bed. I wouldn't trade my experience on The Beacon—or at UP, for that matter—for anything in the world.

Here's to 75 years and many, many more. Viva La College Press!

*Megan Wilber works for a marketing firm in SE Portland.*

JUDY PIATZ CARBONE  
1985

My four years at the University of Portland were defined and shaped by the Salzburg program and The Beacon. I learned valuable lessons and made wonderful friends from both. I found a home on The Beacon staff all four years. As a freshman in 1981-82, I was Circulation Manager. Hey, it was a start.



Every Thursday I'd walk around campus with either a little red wagon or shopping cart and deliver the paper. The worst were rainy days when I'd have to try and protect the papers with garbage bags. My sophomore year was spent in Salzburg, but I didn't leave The Beacon behind. I was Salzburg Correspondent. I knew I wanted to be Sports Editor my junior year, so I applied from Salzburg and got it. I have to admit, I approached my interviews with men's basketball coach Jack Avina with some trepidation. He had a reputation for being a bit on the gruff side.

But he couldn't have been nicer or more patient with me ... especially when

I had to interview him twice one time, when I forgot to push the "record" button on my tape recorder. My career at The Beacon was capped off with being chosen Editor-in-Chief 1984-85. It was an honor and a privilege. That was a banner year. The Chiles Center opened, President Reagan visited campus, and The Beacon marked its 50th anniversary. I remember fondly the rickety old Student Communications Building that used to be where Franz Hall is now, typewriters, not computers, paste-up night, and sometimes delivering the paper myself to the Sellwood Bee where it was printed.

I worked with outstanding people: Brenda Braxton, Dan Christopherson, Brigid Schulte, Jennifer Yocom, Paul Pimentel, Steve Clovis, Dan Nellor, Joe White, Mark Medlin, Teri Van House, just to name a few. I haven't strayed too far from a deadline-driven life. I'm still in the communications business, but in the world of television news. I am now Senior Producer at WRTV (the ABC affiliate) in Indianapolis. I supervise our morning broadcast and occasionally produce the noon show. I've been at the station nearly 19 years. The skills I learned at The Beacon have served me well.

Toward the end of my junior year at the University of Portland, Teri Van House, *The Beacon's* editor, encouraged me to apply for the open position of copy editor for the following school year. Teri and I were both English majors, and she knew I was also taking journalism courses, though there was no major.

When I was offered the copy editor position a few weeks later, I remember how amazing it felt to get paid to do something I loved—working with words. The late nights editing at the office, the sensation of seeing my name in print, and the camaraderie with the other student staff members—Teri, and Dan and Chris stand out—are some of my best memories of my undergraduate years. My year on staff gave me a taste of journalism that changed the course of my life. After graduating, I initially became a high school English teacher and church youth director, before staying home with my children; but my Beacon memories never left. When my children began school full time, I re-evaluated what I wanted to do for the rest of my life, and writing for a newspaper was on every



*In 1966-67, during my senior year, Tom Caruso was editor and I was copy editor. I was also taking classes in existential philosophy and sociology, and working part time at the Plaid Pantry on Lombard Street, while planning for marriage and graduate school.*



*My experiences on The Beacon and at the University of Portland prepared me well for graduate school and to understand the power of the press. I have been interviewed often and have written opinion pieces for newspapers, for Science, and most recently, in a 21st Century web outlet, The Center for American Progress.*

Names like Stokely Carmichael, Timothy Leary and Robert Kennedy are resurfacing again in the popular press on the 50th anniversary of movements they led. For example, 50 years ago the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

short list.

Specifically, writing for *The Oregonian* was my dream job. I contacted the editor of the local section expressing my interest, and they said to bring in published clips. A cover story I wrote for *The Beacon* on 17-year-old Wimbledon champion, Boris Becker, who was playing at the newly built Chiles Center, was among my credits. Notably, my maiden name was Becker, and I joked with Boris that we might be distant relatives.

The *Oregonian* liked my clips and I was offered the freelance position, and have been there since 1996. I have written about authors, teachers, artists, nuns, pastors, missionaries, among other subjects. And, I penned a column, called "Real-Life Mom," for three years, another dream come true. That dream also began at *The Beacon*. Indeed, I had written several opinion pieces for *The Beacon*, and that joy of seeing my photo and column in the paper stayed with me. And continues today.

*Seigneur is the author of the book, *Images of America: WEST LINN*, and has been a freelance writer for *The Oregonian* since 1996. She also works an editor and instructor, most recently teaching American Literature at Multnomah University.*

JIM ZUICHES  
1967

(SNCC) was founded at Shaw University, Raleigh, NC. In 1966, Stokely Carmichael took over the leadership of SNCC and changed it to a Black Power movement. I recall hearing him speak in Portland and we wrote a story in *The Beacon*.

Many of these big issues of war and civil rights still deserve the kind of attention we gave them in *The Beacon* 43 years ago.

Congratulations to The Beacon and its editors on celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the University of Portland student paper.

*Jim Zuiches was a faculty member at Michigan State University, a program officer at the National Science Foundation, an administrator at Cornell University, and dean at Washington State University, a program officer at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. He is now at North Carolina State University as the Vice Chancellor for Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development.*

***A special thanks to Brian Doyle of Portland Magazine, Fr. Bob Antonelli, C.S.C and all of the Beacon staffers that made this 75th Anniversary issue possible.***



2005 – The Beacon goes online. The first issue is uploaded on Nov. 7, featuring the sections of News, UPFront, Fellowship, Sound Off and Sports

2005

2010 – The Beacon is on Facebook and staff writers start writing in The Beacon's new blog. Also, sports reporters start sending out their first tweets during a Pilot basketball game.

Happy 75th!



*www.upbeacon.net* up-beacon

The Beacon celebrates its 75th birthday.

2010